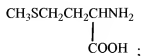


Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating alopecia in a patient exposed to radiation for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in alopecia comprising orally or parenterally administering to said patient an effective amount of a protective agent comprising methionine having the structure



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered prior to said radiation exposure.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered simultaneously with said radiation exposure.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered subsequently to said radiation exposure.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from 36 hours before said radiation exposure to 36 hours after said radiation exposure.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from 25 hours before said radiation exposure to 25 hours after said radiation exposure.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from 6 hours before said radiation exposure to 6 hours after said radiation exposure.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from 1 hour before said radiation exposure to 1 hour after said radiation exposure.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from one-half hour before said radiation exposure to one-half hour after said radiation exposure.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said protective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a combination thereof.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said protective agent is D-methionine.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said protective agent is L-methionine.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said protective agent results in a blood serum level of protective agent equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from 1.0 mg/kg body weight to 600 mg/kg body weight.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said protective agent results in a blood serum level of protective agent equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from 5 mg/kg body weight to 500 mg/kg body weight.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said protective agent results in a blood serum level of protective agent equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from 10 mg/kg body weight to 400 mg/kg body weight.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said protective agent after the administration of said effective amount.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said supplemental amount of said protective agent is administered orally or parenterally.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said protective agent is sufficient to maintain an effective blood serum level of protective agent in said patient for a period of from one to fourteen days after the administration of said effective amount.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said protective agent is sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of protective agent within said patient of at least 10% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said protective agent.

22. (previously presented) A method for treating alopecia in a patient exposed to radiation for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in alopecia the method comprising orally or parenterally administering to said patient an effective amount of a protective agent comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and combinations thereof, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said

protective agent results in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration of protective agent in the range of from 1 mg/kg body weight to 600 mg/kg body weight.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered prior to said radiation exposure.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered simultaneously with said radiation exposure.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said effective amount of said protective agent is administered subsequently to said radiation exposure.

26. (canceled)

27. (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said protective agent after the administration of said effective amount.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said protective agent is sufficient to maintain an effective blood serum level of the protective agent in said patient for a period of from one to fourteen days after the administration of said effective amount.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said protective agent is sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of protective agent within said patient of at least 10% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said protective agent.